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high infant mortality. One especially interesting fact brought out is that the number of deaths of women 15 to 44 years of age from puerperal septicemia, etc. (9,876 in 1913), is second only to the number resulting from tuberculosis (26,265). In all the literature of population, there is a curiously obtuse failure to give consideration to the vital costs of large populations and high fertility rates. This may be attributed to the fact that it has been chiefly economists, and among them chiefly those strongly under the influence of classical materialism, who have studied population problems seriously. A second explanation lies in the fact that most of the writers have been men, upon whose sex the vital costs do not fall heavily. Certainly social science and ethics, as well as law and social politics, have lost greatly from the fact that women have so long been discouraged—or rather not encouraged to enter a field of study which concerns them in so fundamental a manner.

The book contains chapters on the origin and practice of birth control in foreign countries, the birth rate, infant mortality, maternal mortality and diseases of pregnancy, harmful methods of control, prostitution and venereal disease, other transmissible diseases, and pauperism. The chapter on infant mortality is a transcription, almost entire, of Emma Duke's report for the Children's Bureau on infant mortality in Johnstown, but unfortunately the part of the report which should be most convincing of the ethics and necessity of rational birth control—the pathetic record of individual cases among the working class women of Johnstown—is omitted.

As an aid in the magnificent publicity Mrs. Sanger has given to the medieval quality of certain sections in our penal and moral code, this compilation is a distinct contribution, and the economist or sociologist who is not merely an academic historian may well add it to his working library. Public and college libraries will probably put it in the "limbo."

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The Declining Birth-Rate, Its Causes and Effects. Being the Report and the Chief Evidence Taken by the National Council of Public Morals—for the Promotion of Race Regeneration—Spiritual, Moral and Physical. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1916. Pp. xiv, 450.)

By just what logic or authority a body of men and women,

however prominent socially or otherwise, get together and denominate themselves a commission on morals—and a *national* commission at that—does not appear from this report. The unwary may expect to see the report of a royal commission, but we find that the existence of this private body prevented the appointment of a government commission. However, the presence of such men as Newsholme, Stevenson, Hobson, and Hobhouse on the commission gives promise, which the body of the report keeps, that the work done will have significant, if not definitive, value. Naturally, a large amount of the attention of the commission was given to the extent and ethics of volitional limitation, and perhaps the chief value of the report is the indications it affords not only of the extent of the use of artificial control but also of the sentiment of various classes toward it. The commission itself does not venture to give any very decided recommendation either for or against birth control, but the implication is that both fact and logic were so favorable to it that no strong opposition could be voiced except in a minority report.

As was to be expected, the physicians testifying disagreed with regard to the effects, harmful or otherwise, of artificial methods; though there seemed to be fairly unanimous belief that among the poorer classes ignorance leads to the use of harmful and even dangerous devices. The testimony of Sir Thomas Oliver is especially informing on this point. Dr. Drysdale gave a valuable explanation of the principles of the Neo-Malthusian League.

Dr. Brownlee, statistician to the Medical Research Committee under the Insurance Act, undertook to uphold the proposition that the decline of the birth rate is not mainly due to conscious restriction, but that it is the expression of variation in “germinal activity” in cycles of some two hundred years each. This highly speculative theory was supported, as may be imagined, only by very long-range statistics.

Among other discussion of causes, that of Dr. Greenwood, on the fertility of college and non-college women, stands out as contributive. On the basis of returns from 481 college women and 153 of their sisters or other relatives we have:

	College	Non-college
Average duration of marriage.....	8.01	9.98
Average size of family.....	1.91	2.15

“The difference,” says Dr. Greenwood, “can be entirely accounted for by the differences in age at marriage and duration

of marriage." Questions as to limitation, in these same schedules, brought out the following data:

Limitation—not answered	167
acknowledged	289
denied	188
Limitation method:	
Voluntary restriction	105
Other	78
Limitation reasons:	
Economic	130
Health	90
Doubtful	69

Lady Willoughby de Broke sent out 1,000 schedules to middle-class families, of which 118 were answered: 75 acknowledged limitation, 19 denied it; 37 used voluntary restraint, 33 artificial methods.

Another valuable contribution is Dr. Stevenson's discussion of the continued fall in the fertility rate. He brings his corrected birth rates for England and Wales (see *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, March, 1906) down to 1911, concluding that "the decline of fertility is continuing with increasing speed." The corrected rate, which stood at 34.6 in 1881, 32.6 in 1891, and 28.4 in 1903, fell to 24.7 in 1911.

Much interesting matter will be found with regard to the attitude of the various churches. The Episcopal position, set forth by the Lord Bishop of Southwark and by a "Bishop's Memorandum on the Misuse of Marriage" (pp. 389-413), is a curious mixture of crystallized dogmatism and forced recognition of the compelling logic of modern economic and social conditions.

The only witness who gave evidence of seeing the population problem in its larger aspects was J. A. Hobson. His statement (pp. 282-293) is suggestive and well balanced.

The commission rightly gave large space to infant mortality, but unfortunately little or none to the morbidity and mortality rates that accompany a high birth rate. It also devoted some time to the housing question in relation to marriage and size of family.

There is a useful summary of the statistical evidence, but otherwise the work of the commission itself lacks incisiveness. Incidentally, it may be remarked that a large portion of the witnesses were members of the commission, that there seem to have been no representatives of the "middle" and laboring classes on the commission, and that no witnesses from these classes were examined.

Altogether, one lays down the volume with the wish that the appointment of a royal commission had not been forestalled.

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Fluctuation of the Populations during the World War. I. Germany and France. Bulletin of the Society for the Study of the Social Consequences of the War, No. 3. (Copenhagen: Selskabet for Social Forsken af Krigens Folger. 1917. Pp. 141.)

This bulletin deserves notice out of proportion to its size, not only because of the interest and importance of its subject, but also because it is the only serious attempt in English, with the exception of Nixon's article in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* for July, 1916, to estimate the vital ravages of the war on the basis of the fragmentary official statistics as yet available. The authors had at their disposal: for France, only certain official returns for Paris and nine or ten towns, covering part of 1916 and meager data for seventy-seven *departements* reaching to only half of 1915; and for Germany, official returns of birth and death rates for towns of over 15,000 population to May, 1916, and data for Saxony to the end of 1915. The losses for France are thus largely a matter of guesswork, while those of Germany for the past year and a half are forecast on the estimated losses of the Empire up to May, 1916. The estimates for France are thus not comparable in value to those for Germany.

The main conclusions for Germany are sufficiently startling despite the fact that they are made with due scientific caution and allowance. The number of living births in 1915 was 23 per cent, and in 1916, 40 per cent less than in 1913 (calendar years). The first twelve months of the war shows a decline of 10 per cent, and the second twelve months a decline of 36 per cent, compared with the year ending July 31, 1914 (towns only). Estimates of three years' losses are as follows:

The number of living births in 1913 was 1,838,750.

LOSS IN NUMBER OF LIVING BIRTHS, COMPARED WITH BIRTHS IN 1913.

	Number	Per cent
May, 1915-May, 1916.....	662,000	36
May, 1916-May, 1917.....	827,400	45
May, 1917-May, 1918.....	992,900	54
Total loss for three years.....	2,482,300	